R E P O R T R E S U M E S

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THE NEW ENGLISH LINGUISTICS DIVISION AT TEL-AVIV UNIVERSITY.

TEL-AVIV UNIV. (ISRAEL)

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A SEPARATE MAJOR COURSE OF STUDIES WITHIN THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1966 AT TEL-AVIV UNIVERSITY FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS WHOSE MAIN INTEREST LIES IN GENERAL LINGUISTICS AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE STUDIES. THE STUDENTS' QUALIFICATIONS AND THE REQUIRED COURSES ARE DESCRIBED BRIEFLY. (BN)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
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Undergraduate students at Israeli universities are required to take two major subjects for their bachelor's degree. In the past, The English Department at Tel-Aviv University - in common with other universities in the country - provided students interested in English and related studies with a single major only -- in English and American Literature. In view of the rapid development of Linguistics as an independent field of study, a separate major course of studies within the English Department was established for students whose main interest lies in General Linguistics and English Language studies.

In 1965 Professor Daniel A. Fineman, chairman of the department, consulted widely with leading linguists and English Language specialists in Europe, Britain, and the United States, on the planning of this program. The B.A. major in English Linguistics was then launched in the 1966/67 academic year under the direction of Professor R. B. Lees, Head of the Department of Linguistics at the University of Illinois. Professor Lees, who spent the past academic year in Israel as Visiting Fulbright Professor at Tel-Aviv University, has agreed to continue to act as director of the local division and as consultant on all aspects of the program as it develops.

The program started last year with a group of 60 first-year majors, selected on the basis of prior scholastic achievements, entrance tests, and personal interviews. This year - the second year of the program - 80 new students have been admitted out of more than 200 applicants. The majority of these students have chosen English and American literature as their second major, although some 25% are majoring in other fields, such as Hebrew Language, French, or Psychology. Many of the students have several years of experience in teaching English as a second language in the local school system, and many others intend to enter this field upon completing their studies.

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The program at present is as follows:

1st year: Introduction to Linguistics and Elementary Syntax - 6 hours throughout the year. (Course conducted by Professor Lees in 1966/67 and by Dr. Edith Trager, Visiting Fulbright Professor from San Jose State College, in 1967/68, assisted by junior faculty members from the local staff,)

2nd year: Proseminar in English Syntax (2 hours) - given by Professor Trager. Phonology (2 hours) and Socio-Linguistics (2 hours), given by Dr. Arthur Bronstein, Visiting Fulbright Professor from Queens College, New York.

Structure of Hebrew (2 hours). Dr. Uzzi Ornan of the Hebrew Language Departments of Tel-Aviv University and the Hebrew University, Jerusalem. This course is intended to provide the basis for a seminar to be offered in the third year in the Contrastive Analysis of selected aspects of Hebrew and English.

In addition, English Linguistics majors who are not native speakers of English, are required to take 3-4 hours per year of course work in English Proficiency (oral and written), and non-Hebrew speakers are required to study 3-4 hours per year of Hebrew language.

The English Linguistics Division also provides two supplementary courses for students majoring in English literature - in Introduction to Linguistics and English Syntax, as well as supervision and consulting services in the following: language laboratory programs to improve the oral proficiency of English Department students, intensive courses in the study of English as a second language for undergraduate students majoring in subjects outside of the English Department, materials construction for the study of English as a second language in the elementary and high schools of Israel (Grades VI through XII), and teacher training and in-service programs for high school teachers of English as a second language.

Some major needs facing this young Division are: staffing the Division during the formative stage with overseas linguists who join the

program in a temporary capacity, recruiting and establishing a permanent cadre of local linguists - including junior faculty members who are sent abroad for further study, building up a well-stocked library in General and Applied Linguistics and English Language, and maintaining contact with institutions engaged in similar undertakings in different parts of the world. It is hoped that as the program grows the Division will contribute significantly to the development of Linguistics and English Language studies not only within Israel, but in scholarship at large.